

This bird seems to me to be a species of *Chlorospingus*. Mr. Lawrence has kindly lent me his unique specimen. The skin is apparently of the ordinary "Quito" make.

C. flavo-virens is remarkable for its uniform olive plumage, which is strongly fringed with yellow below. Its beak is rather short and strong, so that it goes best among the typical *Chlorospingi*, next to *C. phaeocephalus*. In coloration there is no species which much resembles it.

8. BUARREMON SORDIDUS.

Buarremon sordidus, Lawrence, Ann. Lye. N. Y. x. p. 138 (1874).

The typical specimen of this species, which Mr. Lawrence has kindly lent to me, is, I am quite convinced, only *B. pallidinuchus* in immature plumage.

9. PYRGISOMA ALBICEPS.

Buarremon albiceps, Tac. Orn. d. Pér. ii. p. 533.

This is, I think, after examining the typical specimen kindly lent to me by the Warsaw Museum, not a *Buarremon*, but a species of Ground-Finch of the genus *Pyrgisoma*, as shown by its large feet and short wings. I may add that after again examining specimens of the *Pipilo mystacalis* of Taczanowski (P. Z. S. 1874, p. 521), a bird which I subsequently described as *Buarremon nationi* (P. Z. S. 1881, p. 485), I have come to the conclusion that M. Taczanowski was more nearly right than I was as to the proper classification of this bird, and that it is, in fact, a Ground-Finch, and not a Tanager. But I should be inclined to place it rather in *Pyrgisoma*, near to *P. rubricatum* and its allies, instead of *Pipilo*.

XXVI.—Notes on the Birds of Paisandú, Republic of Uruguay.

By ERNEST GIBSON, F.Z.S. (Communicated by J. J. DALGLEISH *.)

THE district of Paisandú is very much broken by irregular hill and dale, the former of very little height, and of such a

* [These notes are the results of observations made by Mr. Gibson

gradually sloping ascent as not to check a horse's gallop. In most of the valleys are streams or rivulets, as a rule of little importance. The soil is exceptionally fine, except where interrupted by the approach of the stony "tosca" formation to the surface. Along the river Uruguay exists a strip of wood, more or less broad, consisting of "sauce" (*Salix humboldtiana*?), "moya" (*Moya spinosa*?), "scybo" (*Erythrina crista-galli*), "tala" (*Celtis tala*), "coronillo" (*Scutia buxifolia*), and "quebrachillo" (*Quebrachia*, sp.?), together with a great number of shrubs. These trees also extend for a certain distance up the valleys of the larger streams, tributaries of the Uruguay. On the higher land they are replaced by the stunted "algoroba" (*Prosopis juliflora*?), "espinillo" (*Acacia*, sp.), and—a very few—"ñandubay" (*Prosopis nandubey*), gradually thinning out as they retire from the vicinity of the great river. The grasses are a mixture of what is called "hard" and "soft," interspersed with a considerable variety of other plants. The wealth and beauty of the wild flowers in spring is something extraordinary; the ground is one blaze of colour, to an extent probably unknown in any other country; the three varieties of verbenas, scarlet, mauve, and white, greatly predominate. In the woods are also to be found very pretty ferns, creepers, cacti, and air-plants. At this season also the "espinillo" and "quebrachillo" trees are a mass of golden feathery bloom, and literally perfume the air. It is rather curious, though, in view of the foregoing, that I only counted about twenty-five species of butterflies, and was equally disappointed by the paucity in both numbers and species of other insects, barring mosquitos and tarantulas. Round the house in which I resided were several paddocks, containing a few espinillo-trees and several coverts of hard grass, the latter two or three feet high. In these and their accompanying hedges of ñapindá (*Acacia bona-*

during a short stay made by him in the above district during the months of October, November, and December 1883. They accompanied a small collection of skins and eggs, the former of which, so far as necessary, have been kindly identified by Mr. Selater. The notes I give in Mr. Gibson's own words.—J. J. D.]

riensis) I found the majority of the following species of birds.

1. *TURDUS RUFIVENTRIS*, Vieill.

Only seen in one locality, the woods in the valley of the Cangüé river, a tributary of the Uruguay, about ten miles below Paisandú.

2. *MIMUS CALANDRIA* (d'Orb. et Lafr.).

Very abundant.

3. *ANTHUS CORRENDERA* (Vieill.).

4. *PROGNE CHALYBEA* (Gm.).

Very abundant, appearing first on 15th September, and breeding about the middle of November.

5. *PROGNE TAPERA* (Linn.).

Appeared on 29th September.

6. *PETROCHELIDON PYRRHONOTA* (Vieill.).

Found a nest in a wall of outbuildings 18th November, containing young and an addled egg.

7. *SPERMOPHILA HYPOXANTHA* (Cab.).

One shot in pasture near head station 11th November.

8. *DONACOSPIZA ALBIFRONS* (Vieill.).

Is probably abundant, but difficult to distinguish from other grass-covert frequenting species. A female was shot off the nest in grass-pasture near head station 28th October. It had no note. The nest was placed in the top of a thick clump of grass, and was built of dry grass and fine hair-like roots, and lined with the latter. Number of eggs three.

9. *POOSPIZA NIGRORUFA* (d'Orb. et Lafr.).

Appeared (♂) on 1st October.

10. *DIUCA MINOR*, Bp.

Not uncommon. I generally observed it in pairs, frequenting the small scattered trees in the open, and each pair very local in its habits. The note is very sweet, and so exceedingly like that of *Paroaria cucullata*, that I was never able to distinguish them during the whole of my stay.

11. ZONOTRICHIA PILEATA (Bodd.).

12. EMBERNAGRA PLATENSIS (Gm.).

Abundant and breeding. Unfortunately, the only nest I found, in a grass-covert, contained young, so the eggs of this species are still unknown to me.

13. SYCALIS PELZELNI, Scl.

14. SYCALIS LUTEOLA (Sparrm.).

Abundant. Breeding generally.

15. MOLOTHRUS BONARIENSIS (Gm.).

16. MOLOTHRUS BADIUS (Vieill.).

17. XANTHOSOMUS FLAVUS (Gm.).

Abundant, frequenting the open camp and grass-coverts. I discovered a breeding-colony in the former, where a herd of cattle of over 2000 head used to be rounded up every alternate morning, and where a patch of thistles about 150 yards long by 30 yards broad had sprung up. Here some ten or twelve pairs had taken up their abode. They did not seem to be much put about by their proximity to the busy scene, unless when some thick-skinned and perverse bull made a dash through the belt of five-feet high thistles. I, of course, in view of such an attraction—the birds, not the bull—was very zealous in detecting incipient stampedes on that side, and continually sneaking round the thistle-bed. The nests were situated sometimes in the centre of the place, sometimes at the edge, fairly well concealed by the leaves, and about two feet from the ground. They were built of dry grass and lined with a fine quality of the same and a few horsehairs. Four was the general number of eggs, five being the maximum and three the minimum, and most of the nests contained eggs by the end of November. The birds were very tame and the females sat close. This species has bred, too, in a district I know well in the neighbourhood of Cape San Antonio, Province of Buenos Ayres, to which its range extends in the months of December and January with considerable annual regularity.

18. *PSEUDOLEISTES VIRESCENS* (Vieill.).

Breeding in end of November. A typical nest was placed in the thickest and highest part of the clump of thistles above mentioned, about two feet from the ground. It was built of dry grass, then a thick layer of mud, still moist, and was sparsely lined with some fine grass or rootlets. It contained five eggs.

19. *LEISTES SUPERCILIARIS*, Bp.

This species was abundant during all the time of my stay, frequenting the open camp and grass-coverts. Latterly I had strong suspicions of its breeding, but did not succeed in getting a nest. The note is harsh and unmusical.

20. *TENIOPTERA DOMINICANA* (Vieill.).

A not uncommon bird, and very conspicuous from its plumage, generally to be seen in pairs; but I found no nests.

21. *ALECTORURUS GUIRU-YETAPA* (Vieill.).

I was much struck by the appearance and habits of this species and the contrast between the male and female. The bare part of the throat in the former is of a reddish colour, not pleasing to the eye. It was not uncommon, frequenting localities where a few trees were associated with high grass, thistles, and isolated plants of a similar height, preferring to alight on the latter. The flight is singularly weak and feeble, not necessarily low, but like the fluttering passage of a butterfly through the air. The tail is not expanded, but floats along behind in a semi-detached way. One nest which I succeeded in obtaining was placed on the ground among some weeds; it was neatly built of grass, lined with the same and a few feathers, and contained three eggs. The date was 21st October.

22. *MACHETORNIS RIXOSA* (Vieill.).

Not uncommon.

23. *HABRURA PECTORALIS* (Vieill.).

Not rare.

24. PITANGUS BELLICOSUS (Vieill.).

25. PYROCEPHALUS RUBINEUS (Bodd.).

Appeared on 10th September and became very abundant.

26. TYRANNUS MELANCHOLICUS, Vieill.

Not uncommon and paired, probably breeding about 28th October, when a male was shot in the garden.

27. MILVULUS TYRANNUS (Linn.).

Very abundant. Appeared first on 20th September, and was breeding generally by the end of November. One nest which I took contained four eggs: the first occasion on which I ever saw the usual number of three exceeded. It was placed in a stunted "espinillo" tree, about six feet from the ground, and was built of dry stems of plants and lined with fine roots, some wool, and some horsehair. The date was 30th November.

28. GEOSITTA CUNICULARIA (Vieill.).

29. FURNARIUS RUFUS (Gm.).

Abundant.

30. LEPTASTHENURA ÆGITHALOIDES (Kittl.).

31. SYNALLAXIS PHRYGANOPHILA, Vieill.

One shot 7th. October in "ñapindá" hedge near head station. This was the only specimen I saw, though I frequently looked for it afterwards. These hedges were such horrid things that one had to look for the birds to appear at the surface some distance off or else push the muzzle of the gun in among the branches and blow the specimen to pieces; and the birds generally showed a marked preference for the latter course. On this occasion I was strolling along with the setting sun in my eyes, when a small bird showed on the outside at a fair range. It might have been a Wren or any thing common, for all I could judge; but, arguing from the general perversity of "ñapindá" hedges and their denizens, I selected to satisfy myself, and fired. Hence this exultation and dissertation.

32. *SYNALLAXIS SORDIDA*, Less.

Another single specimen was procured of this bird on 28th October, regarding which I can offer no further information.

33. *ANUMBIUS ACUTICAUDATUS*, Less.

Very abundant. Every stunted little tree had one or more nests, new or old.

34. *PHACELLODOMUS RUBER* (Vieill.).

A rather common species, but very difficult to get hold of, as it either keeps in the centre of the hedges when approached or in grass-coverts, hides itself and refuses to be put up. On the whole it makes little use of its wings. Perched on one spot it gives utterance to a single harsh monotonous note, which it keeps reiterating for hours at a time, and which can be heard at a considerable distance. A dull brown bird with a dull brown voice would fully describe it! It also feeds on small beetles, another fact I find chronicled, as if desperately hard up for points of interest in its life-history. However, its nest is worthy of description. It is usually placed at the extremity of a branch in some small tree or hedgerow, occasionally over a stream at about six feet from the ground, and without any attempt at concealment; it is built of small twigs, after the manner of *Anumbius acuticaudatus*, that is, with a passage leading into a chamber, but in this case horizontally. The nesting-chamber is lined with woven hairs, fine roots, and feathers. The eggs number four, and the breeding-season seems to be the end of October and November, nests having been taken from 21st October to 1st December.

35. *THAMNOPHILUS ARGENTINUS*, Cab.

I only observed one of this species during my stay, and this I shot in a hedge near head station on 28th October.

36. *CHLOROSTILBON AUREIVENTRIS* (d'Orb. et Lafr.).

I was disappointed on finding this to be the only species of Humming-bird to be met with in this district. One or two old nests which I saw were attached to the thatch-eaves of a deserted house.

37. *PODAGER NACUNDA* (Vieill.).

A clutch of two eggs obtained 14th October. There was no nest. The female, which I shot, sat close and only flew a few yards. The food in the crop was principally beetles.

38. *CHRYSOPTILUS CRISTATUS* (Vieill.).39. *BOLBORHYNCHUS MONACHUS* (Bodd.).

Only once seen, when a flock of three or four passed overhead in the direction of the river.

40. *GUIRA PIRIRIGUA* (Vieill.).

Abundant.

41. *PHOLEOPTYNX CUNICULARIA* (Mol.).

Abundant.

42. *MILVAGO CHIMANGO* (Vieill.).

Abundant.

43. *POLYBORUS THARUS* (Mol.).

Abundant.

44. *ARDEA EGRETTE* (Gm.).

One or two seen about the river.

45. *CICONIA MAGUARI* (Gm.).

One or two observed.

46. *COLUMBA MACULOSA*, Temm.47. *ZENAIDA MACULATA* (Vieill.).48. *COLUMBULA PICUI* (Temm.).

Only one solitary specimen seen.

49. *VANELLUS CAYENNENSIS* (Gm.).

Common.

50. *GALLINAGO PARAGUAIE* (Vieill.).

I shot one of a pair at a small swamp on 1st October. It has a cry which at once attracts one's notice.

51. *NOTHURA MACULOSA* (Temm.).

Very abundant. On 21st October I saw one nest with ten eggs. Others seen the same day contained seven, six, and five eggs. They were generally situated in comparatively

open ground, but occasionally in the centre of a thick tuft of grass.

52. *RHEA AMERICANA*, Lath.

Not uncommon in a semidomesticated sort of way. One nest which I saw contained about fifty eggs in two tiers; they looked like round china bowls. It is decidedly awkward to approach a nest unless one's horse is a hundred years old, and consequently accustomed to everything; otherwise, when the Ostrich suddenly rises and dashes at the intruder, its outspread and drooping wings sweeping the ground, and its beak rattling like a pair of castanets, the horse is sure to bolt or buck, sometimes both.

Besides the foregoing, I certainly saw upwards of thirty species which I am unable to name. Of course, had I had more time at my disposal, and been oftener in the woods or about the river, the number of species would have been much greater.

XXVII.—Notes on the Birds of the Genus *Homorus* observed in the Argentine Republic. By W. H. HUDSON, C.M.Z.S.

1. *HOMORUS LOPHOTES*, Reichb.*

This species interested me greatly, but, owing to its rarity in the district where I observed it and to its recluse habits, my knowledge of it is very scanty. In the province of Buenos Ayres its presence is confined to the narrow strip of

* [This species is usually called *Homorus unirufus* (d'Orb. et Lafr.), and is the bird so designated in our 'Nomenclator,' p. 65: it is also termed *Anabates unirufus* by Burmeister ('La Plata-Reise,' ii. p. 466). It is, however, as Graf v. Berlepsch has pointed out to me, not the *Anumbius* (sive *Anabates*) *unirufus* of d'Orbigny's 'Voyage' (Aves, p. 259, pl. 55. fig. 1), which is much more like *Homorus cristatus* (Spix); but it may probably be "*Anabates cristatus*, Spix," of d'Orbigny's 'Voyage' (p. 258), although Spix's bird is certainly quite different. Under these circumstances the first specific name applicable to this species appears to be "*lophotes*" of Reichenbach (Handb. p. 182, tab. dxxv. fig. 3628). Whether it is really the *Anabates lophotes* of the Leyden Museum (quoted in Bp. Consp. i. p. 210) does not much matter, as that is only a MS. name.—P. L. S.]